



- 1. A composition capable of exhibiting a detectable and measurable color transition in response to a concentration of 0% to about 20%, by weight, of a dialdehyde, said composition comprising:
  - (a) a diamino carboxylic acid;

(b) a water-soluble polymer; and
(c) a carrier comprising water. What is

carrier?

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid has a formula:

wherein R is alkyl substituted with amino, amido guanidino, or ureido, and further optionally substituted with hydroxy.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of lysine, ornithine, L-2,3-diaminopropionic acid, L-2,3-diaminobutyric acid, arginine, canavanine, hydroxylysine, asparagine, glutamine, and mixtures thereof.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is lysine, ornithine, arginine, or a mixture thereof.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is present in an amount of about 1% to about 25%, by weight of the composition.

- 6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is present in an amount of about 5% to about 15%, by weight of the composition.
- 7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises a nonionic polymer.
- 8. The composition of claim 7 wherein the polymer comprises a cellulose-based polymer.
- 9. The composition of claim 8 wherein the cellulose-based polymer is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and salts thereof, hydroxybutylcellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxybutylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.
- 10. The composition of claim 9 wherein the polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydrolyzed polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), vinyl acetate-vinyl alcohol copolymer, poly(methacrylamide), a polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block polymer having a structure:

$$HO = \begin{bmatrix} CHCH_2O \\ \\ CH_3 \\ \\ CH_3 \\ \\ \times \\ \end{bmatrix} \times CH_2CH_2O)_y = \begin{bmatrix} CHCH_2O \\ \\ \\ CH_3 \\ \\ \\ CH_3 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

or

wherein x and z, independently, are an integer from about 4 to about 30, and y is an integer from about 4 to about 100, polyacrylamide, a vinyl alcohol copolymer, and mixtures thereof.

- 12. The composition of claim 7 wherein the polymer is present in an amount of 0.1% to about 5%, by weight of the composition.
- 13. The composition of claim 1 further comprising anionic surfactant.

- The composition of claim 13 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated polysorbate, an ethoxylated alcohol, an ethoxylated phenol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, an ethylene glycol-propylene glycol copolymer, an alkyl sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfonate, a sulfate ester of an alkylphenoxy polyoxyethylene ethanol, an alpha-olefin sulfonate, a beta-alkyloxy alkane sulfonate, an alkyl arylsulfonate, an alkyl carbonate, an alkyl ether carboxylate, a fatty acid, a sulfosuccinate, an alkyl ether sulfosuccinate, a sarcosinate, an octoxynol phosphate, a nonoxynol phosphate, a taurate, a fatty tauride, a sulfated monoglyceride, a fatty acid amido polyoxyethylene sulfate, and mixtures thereof.
- 15. The composition of claim 1 comprising:
- (a) about 1% to about 25% by weight diamino carboxylic acid; and
- (b) about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof.
- 16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the carrier further comprises an organic solvent.

- 17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the organic solvent comprises methanol, ethanol, or acetone.
- 18. A method of determining a dialdehyde content of a sample containing 0% to about 20% by weight of the dialdehyde, said method comprising:
- (a) contacting the sample with an indicator reagent composition comprising:
  - (i) a diamino carboxylic acid, and
  - (ii) an optional polymer; and
- (b) determining the dialdehyde content of the sample from the intensity and degree of a color transition of the indicator reagent composition.
- 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the sample has a dialdehyde content of about 0.5% to about 6% by weight dialdehyde.
- 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the dialdehyde is selected from the group consisting of oxalaldehyde, malonaldehyde, succinaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, and dipaldehyde.
- 21. The method of claim 18 wherein the dialdehyde is glutaraldehyde.
- 22. The method of claim 18 wherein the intensity and degree of the color transition are determined visually or instrumentally.

wherein R is alkyl substituted with amino, amido guanidino, or uneido, and further optionally substituted with hydroxy.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein the sample is an aqueous sample or a gaseous sample.

4... 18... 1

- 25. A method of quantitatively determining the dialdehyde content of a sample containing 0% to about 20% by weight of the dialdehyde, said method comprising:
- (a) contacting the sample with an analyte detection device comprising a test pad, said test pad having incorporated therein an indicator reagent composition comprising a carrier matrix impregnated with a solution comprising:
  - (i) a diamino carboxylic acid, and(ii) an optional polymer; and
- (b) determining the dialdehyde content of the aqueous sample from the intensity and degree of a color transition of the indicator reagent composition.
- 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the dialdehyde is present in an aqueous solution or in a gaseous vapor.
- 27. A method of determining a dialdehyde content of an aqueous sample comprising:
- (a) contacting the aqueous sample with an analyte detection device comprising a test pad having incorporated therein an indicator reagent composition comprising:
  - (i) a diamino carboxylic acid, and in an optional polymer; and
- (b) examining the analyte detection device for a color transition; and
- (c) correlating the color transition to the dialdehyde content of the aqueous sample.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the aqueous sample has a dialdehyde content of 0% to about 20% by weight.

29. An analyte-detection device to determine a dialdehyde content of an aqueous sample comprising:

a support strip;

a test/pad adhering to the support strip;

and

an indicator reagent composition incorporated into the test pad, said reagent composition comprising:

(a) | a diamino carboxylic acid, and

(d) an optional polymer.